

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) Box for a set of electric storage batteries comprising at least two side walls (12, 14) extending parallel and defining between themselves a housing for receiving the batteries, the box being characterized in that the side walls (12, 14) consist of an assembly of stacked modules (16) each comprising a pair of wall elements (18, 20) mounted opposite each other.

10. (currently amended) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that each wall element (18, 20) ~~is in the form of a profile and~~ comprises at least one folded edge (24) that defines, jointly with a folded edge of the wall element mounted opposite it, a support for at least one row of batteries.

11. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that it also comprises battery retention means (38).

12. (previously presented) Box according to claim 11, characterized in that the retention means comprise a removable

rod (38) extending through the folded edges (22, 24) of the stacked wall elements.

13. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that it also comprises two end plates (28, 30), each provided with fixing lugs (32) for the wall elements (18, 20).

14. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13, characterized in that the end plates are provided with openings (34) for the ventilation of the battery elements.

15. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13, characterized in that the end plates are each provided with a handling point (36) for engagement by a lifting appliance.

16. (previously presented) System of boxes for a set of electric storage batteries, characterized in that it consists of an assembly of boxes (10) according to claim 9.

17. (new) The box of claim 9, wherein two horizontally opposed wall elements (18, 20) together form a floor support for any battery stored therebetween, each of the two horizontally opposed wall elements forming a floor support for one edge of each battery stored therebetween.

18. (new) The box of claim 9, further comprising plural batteries,

each battery supported on a first edge by a base of a module of a first of the two side walls and supported on a second

edge, parallel to the first edge, by a base of a module of a second of the two side walls.

19. (new) A battery box, comprising:

plural batteries;

a plurality of like wall elements (18, 20) vertically stacked in two opposing first and second columns; and

two end plates enclosing opposing ends of the two columns,

each wall element including

a base formed of a lower horizontal edge,

a horizontal upper edge for supporting a base of another wall element, and

a vertical section between the lower and upper horizontal edges,

each battery supported on a first edge by a base of an element of the first column and supported on a second edge, parallel to the first edge, by a base of an element of the second column.

20. (new) A battery box, comprising:

two side walls (12, 14);

and two end covers,

the two side wall comprising an assembly of elementary interchangeable stacked modules (16),

each module 16 comprising a pair of opposing wall elements (18, 20),

each lower wall element supporting an adjacent upper wall element,

each wall element being a U-section with arms (22, 24) pointing inwards toward and parallel with arms of an opposite wall element,

an upper arm of each lower wall element serving as a support for a lower arm the corresponding adjacent upper wall element,

opposing lower arms of opposing wall elements providing opposing support bases for opposing parallel edges of any battery supported therebetween.

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